

Meeting of the Coventry Fire District, Anthony Fire Department Board of Directors

October 7, 2009 – Wednesday

Open meeting: 7:00 pm

Board Members in attendance: Gary Cote - Chairman, Shirley Matthews Co-Chairman, and Edward Webster

Chief – Paul Labbadia

Clerk – Robin Leroux

1. Board of Directors update and discussion:

Gary Cote read the report from the Tax collector – collections to date are \$1,630,839.59 plus interest of \$56,689.18 for a total of \$1,687,528.77. This is just over 74% of budget. The 4th quarter is due 10/31/09. We have \$45,358.79 in Coventry Credit Union as of October 6, 2009. We are behind in collections. The Treasurer has not requested we use the line of credit yet.

The closing for the property next door was held. Gary Cote signed the necessary papers. The gross amount was \$25,500. There were charges taken out for the sewers assessment so we only received a check in the amount of \$19,267. These funds will only be used for capital improvements on this building. Shirley Mathews made motion for a separate account be made for these funds. Ed Webster seconded the motion; all were in favor Ed Webster, Shirley Matthews

and Gary Cote. Ed Webster made motion to have Chief Labbadia bonded with the insurance company and Shirley Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor, Ed Webster, Shirley Matthews and Gary Cote.

Gary Cote will be posting session for the budget planning after the Columbus Day weekend. He suggests Chief Labbadia get a preliminary budget of his own going to present to the Board.

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Chief Labbadia said the Fire alarm system should be done tonight.

Jean Lukowicz brought up something she heard in the news about Governor Carcieri not paying 4th quarter taxes to the districts. She said they are under obligation to pay the 4th quarter but we may not be seeing any money in the future. We receive about \$69,000 for this tax year.

Gary Cote and Chief Labbadia discussed that the board was going to be looking for a 5% reduction on both the Fire Dept side and the Administrative side for next year's budget. Gary does not want to raise taxes if at all possible. The Chief mentioned it is less of a burden to increase taxes in small amounts yearly than to have to have a big increase 2 years from now.

Gary Cote will be looking to have biweekly budget meetings if possible and have the Union sit in on the discussion for their input and help.

Chief Labbadia mentioned we have purchased software that will help share information and allow us to do third party billing to insurance companies for apparatus use. This should bring in a little additional money. It will also help with the NFSTA filing that now needs to be done monthly.

Ed Webster asked Chief Labbadia how we are doing with grants. We have a construction grant through FEMA submitted which is part of the new stimulus package from the government. Chief Labbadia will also check into money available through RI EMA for equipment, training and construction.

Gary Cote read an article in Readers Digest regarding a non profit company that was raising money for thermo imaging equipment. He submitted a request to that company to contact us to see if we qualify for any of this equipment. They will be contacting the Chief. Chief Labbadia said we do have a replacement package through our insurance company and they should be replacing one of ours. Chief Labbadia will inform the non profit company of that when they call and see if we still qualify for their program.

Shirley Matthews asked if we have heat upstairs. We do have heat and a/c. Work still needs to be done but its coming along good.

Public Comment and Discussion:

Jim Perry inquired what precautions will be taken on behalf of the fire fighter for the Swine flu. Chief Labbadia said next week employees will be getting vaccinated for the flu. Normal precautions should also be taken anyway. Wear masks, wash hands etc.

The tax collector heard from a taxpayer. She had her property assessment lowered at the town. Since she paid her taxes in full for the year she is requesting a refund. The tax collector informed her that she can only issue credits for next year. The tax payer is not happy and will be sending a letter to the Board.

There will not be an executive session this evening. We are still waiting for health care information.

Gary Cote said the budget workshops are open to the public and do not have to be posted at the state level, he would like them posted locally 48 hours ahead of time.

The tax collector wanted to know if we spoke to the attorney about late payments coming to her office instead of their office so she can keep better track of them and customers account won't keep accruing late penalties. Gary Cote will speak to him.

Motion was made by Shirley Matthews and seconded by Ed Webster to adjourn meeting. All members were in favor – Gary Cote, Ed Webster, and Shirley Matthews. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was taped. The tape is on file with the record of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Robin Leroux

Clerk, Board of Directors AFD